

Call for Applications

Academic Accelerator Fellowship 2026

Fellowships: Up to 3 Academic Accelerator Fellowship for second- or third-year PhD researchers from regions and communities underrepresented in academia.

Duration: 12 months; starting in September 2026

Application Period: January 20, 2026 to February 28, 2026

About SCRIPTS: The Cluster of Excellence "Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)" is an interdisciplinary research consortium that investigates the global deepening of contestations surrounding liberal models of society and their resilience. Since 2019, SCRIPTS has been funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) under Germany's Excellence Strategy (Exzellenzstrategie) initiated by the federal and state governments. Headquartered at Freie Universität Berlin, the Cluster unites excellent research from six research institutions. It collaborates with partners across all world regions. In the first funding period 2019-2025, the main emphasis was on conceptualizing and detecting patterns of contestations of the liberal script on the state, regional and international level as well as explaining their causes. The second funding period 2026-2032 focuses especially on consequences of liberal script contestations.

For further information: <https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/>

Eligibility: The Academic Accelerator Fellowship is designed for doctoral researchers from regions and communities underrepresented in academia. Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD program at an institution outside of Germany for the full duration of the fellowship. The program is primarily directed at researchers in the second or third year of their PhD studies. Their PhD projects must be relevant to the SCRIPTS research agenda. You can access the research agenda here: https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/publications/working-paper-series/Working-Paper-60-2025/SCRIPTS_Working_Paper_60_WEB.pdf

What the Fellowship Offers: Accelerator Fellows will be integrated into the Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS), where training and academic activities take place. The fellowship aims to strengthen theoretical and methodological skills and includes:

- A formal mentoring arrangement
- A tailored course program
- Opportunities for professional development, intercultural learning, and networking
- Participation in biweekly colloquia and fellowship-related events
- A monthly stipend of €1,800 for up to 12 months. In addition, recipients may be eligible for child allowances.

Fellows are expected to contribute to the academic life and research activities of SCRIPTS.

How to Apply: Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. Cover letter (max 2 pages) explaining
 - how your profile aligns with the goals of the fellowship
 - why the BGTS is an optimal place for your training, including:
 - fit of your PhD project with the SCRIPTS research agenda
 - 2-3 suggested mentors from among the [SCRIPTS Principal Investigators](#)
2. Three-page outline of the PhD thesis
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Proof of enrollment in a PhD program
5. One letter of reference from your supervisor or another professor at a research institution familiar with your work
6. Copies of relevant academic certificates
7. Copy of a valid travel document

Please submit your complete application as a single PDF to: irc@scripts-berlin.eu

The application period closes on February 28, 2026.

At SCRIPTS, we value diversity as the means to ensure the quality and excellence of the cluster. We believe in inclusive excellence, in which a variety of research perspectives enrich the quality of our research. SCRIPTS is dedicated to create a welcoming environment and foster equal opportunities for all. For further information visit: <https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/about-us/Diversity/Diversity-Statement/index.html>